



Practice: Offering Talks



Offering Talks should have a few objectives. They are to serve as reminders, not a place to introduce new language, thoughts, or directions.

1. Disciple people in the Generosity Pathway.
2. Connect the vision to impact.
3. Nurture and shepherd them through difficult financial seasons in their lives.
4. Seek to highlight a variety of ways generosity is being released.

Below you will find several examples. Categories include, First Fruits, next generation, global missions, city impact, vision, special offering, shepherding, serving, and digital giving.

Here are a few examples and how they may be placed. Be sure to know your giving patterns to address First Fruits around payday. You will also want to have a stable of categories you address throughout the year. Do not be afraid to repeat. You do not need 52 Offering Talks. People do not remember what you say the first time or the second, so repeat, repeat, repeat to grow culture.

First Weekend of the Month: First Fruits

"It is the first weekend of the month and many of you have come prepared today to live out the Biblical principle of First Fruits. If you are not familiar with it, take a look at this passage from Proverbs 3:9-10, "Honor the LORD with your possessions and with the first produce of your entire harvest; then your barns will be completely filled, and your vats will overflow with new wine" (CSB). God is the provider of everything we have in our lives and giving our First Fruits back to Him as the Ultimate Giver is a massive statement of our faith. God not only forgives our sins, but provides for everything in our lives far better than we can. So thank you for giving your First Fruits. Be encouraged God promises to meet every need you have, even to an overflowing measure.

Let's pray. Father, thank You for these people today and their acknowledgement of Your faithful provision in their life. Thank You for their faith, surrender, and generosity. More than that, Lord, we thank You for being so generous to us. You have given us more than we need and definitely more than we deserve. Now according to your Word, keep meeting our needs and overflow our lives with Your generosity. Amen."

First Weekend: Alternate

"On the first of the month, it is so easy to take for granted all we have or be misled to think that we have created it for ourselves. God is gracious and giving any way you want to measure it. Here is what the Bible says about our work and careers. "You may say to yourself, 'My power and my own ability have gained this wealth for me,' but remember that the LORD your God gives you the power to gain wealth, in order to confirm his covenant he swore to your fathers, as it is today," Deuteronomy 8:17-18 (CSB). Today let's take a moment to thank God deeply for His generous provision over our lives and let's not be bashful about receiving all the success He wants to give us today or in the future. He alone is in charge of our careers. We are His and we want to surrender our First Fruits to Him today at the beginning of the month.

Let's pray. *Father, we are so grateful to You for our careers. Thank You for our gifts, experiences, education, and training. Thank You for the opportunity to work hard and be successful. We acknowledge all is from You and about You. To You we give thanks and praise. Be glorified in our work and how we use the resources You give us. Amen."*

Second Weekend of the Month: Global Ministry *(example: will need personalization to context)*

"This week I want you to know that your generosity made its way to the other side of the world. We have a mission partnership in _____ which provides care for orphans that have been abandoned due to the dire poverty that exists in _____. *(Show picture)* This partnership cares for *(insert number)* orphans every week. We join alongside them providing food, water, clothing, education, healthcare, and the hope of God. This past week we received a report that *(insert number)* children attended their summer Bible clubs with *(insert number)* praying to receive Christ. Thank you for giving. You are making a difference not just here, but there as well.

Let's pray. *Father, thank You for _____ and our opportunity to partner with them in ministry. I pray for their leaders, facility, and finances. Keep providing. Most of all we pray for the kids. Deliver them from all harm. Bless them with health, love, and joy. Use our resources in exponential amounts for Your glory. May we see the impact double in the lives on the next generation spreading throughout the region. Now bless these generous people. Keep leading us to be difference makers with the resources You give us. Amen."*

Second Weekend: Alternate - Next Generation Ministry *(example: will need personalization to context)*

"Today we are investing in *(insert number)* of children and teens. Over *(insert number)* staff and volunteers are caring for, becoming friends with, and sharing God's principles with the next generation. To date we have seen *(insert number)* kids and teens pray to receive Christ and *(insert number)* have followed through with baptism. Your generosity is reaching far into the next generation. Today you are making an impact that will far outlive all of our lives. Thank you. Keep investing. Keep making a difference.

Let's pray for our next generation ministries now. *Father, we are all Your children. You are a loving, caring, and guiding Father. Thank You so much for everyone serving to impact the next generation. Thank You for everyone who gives generously to make a difference. Take our gifts and use them to transform a life. Help our kids to know Your love, find meaningful friends, experience whole families, and be clear about your direction for their lives. Protect them in this world for your honor and glory. Amen."*

Third Weekend of the Month: Shepherding

"Today, I want to take a moment and provide you with some support. Life is full of challenges and some of those challenges are with our finances and the future. It is so easy to be in a place of anxiety, worry, or stress. Here is what Scripture says "The Lord is my shepherd, I have what I need." Psalm 23:1

(CSB). I want you to know that Your Father knows and can care better for you than all your worries can. Faith is about trust in both the good and hard times. Lift up your eyes today and let the Lord speak His voice of peace and provision to you. As we pray today, let's surrender our worries and our gifts.

Let's pray. Father, thank You for Your care and concern for us. Nothing ever surprises You. You know the need and the answer before we are aware of either. Today, I pray for those who are struggling with financial needs, pressure at work, or concern for their future. May your presence result in peace. Increase our hope and trust. Help us to live surrendered to You, trusting You with our lives, finances, and future. Bring glory to Yourself today in us. Amen."

Third Weekend: Alternate

"Today many are here carrying a burden. You may be staring at a financial crisis that has you shaking. It could be caused by job loss, economic woes, a health crisis, car repairs, or even some poor decisions by you or someone else. I want you to be encouraged today. Scripture says, "Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they are?" Matthew 6:26 (CSB). God knows and is ready to work on your behalf. Let's take a moment, reach out to Him, and trust Him with your worries. He is your great Provider. He is a good Father. As we pray, feel free to stretch your hands out, palms up. Just release your worries and receive God's provision.

Father, you know all things. You know everything that is going on in the life of these people. You are not surprised by the events of concern. You actually have a plan. You are going to use this day, this week for Your glory and their good. Help us today to release our concerns and embrace Your provision. Increase our faith. Give us wisdom. Lead us to your rest. For your name, honor, and glory. Amen."

Fourth Weekend of the Month: Digital Giving

"I want to say thanks to all of you who have already given digitally this week or will be doing so later this week. At this point, approximately _____% of giving is done digitally via text, app, or online. So you are here each weekend having already given. I want you to know that your gift is actually being multiplied every time it is received. It saves our staff team a significant amount of time to process the digital gifts because the system is automated. So thank you for the text, online, and spontaneous app gifts you provide during the week. Because of the money we are saving with the automation, we are able to do more in other areas of ministry. The recurring gifts also help us manage our money more consistently when you account for personal travel schedules and bad weather days. If you are not giving digitally, you may want to check it out. Information is on the screens and in the worship guide.

Let's pray. Thank you, Father, for these generous people and our staff that work so hard to manage our resources with the highest level of integrity. You are a generous God and we want to be generous just like You. Take these gifts, make a difference in a life, provide for those who give, and continue to give our overseers wisdom and favor in financial decisions. Amen."

Fourth Weekend: Alternate

"Many of you came today ready to be generous by placing your offering in our generosity boxes/offering baskets. About __% of you give digitally during the week. I just want to say thank you to all our digital givers. We actually have a large group of people that are consistent givers. They have set up their giving to automatically occur weekly, bi-weekly, or monthly. They do not want to chance not receiving the blessings of following God's financial principles. This type of giving really helps our ministries be managed better. The giving is not so up and down based on travel schedules or bad weather days. So thank you to everyone. If you are not a digital giver or haven't set up an automated gift, you may want to look into it. The information is on the screen.

Let's pray. Father, you are so good, so generous, and so consistent. Thank You for Your dependability. That trait is actually being displayed in Your people today. Bless their lives. Keep providing for us as You said You would. Use our gifts to make a difference here and around the world. Let us never grow tired of seeing You work through our gifts. Amen."

Vision: Alternate

As you know our church is committed to fulfilling the vision of "*(insert vision language)*." This month we saw that being fulfilled in many different ways. You may have been involved with *(insert ministry/event)* and watched how God transformed lives. We have seen *(insert number)* baptisms this year. Those who have discovered their gifts and are actively making a difference on a team has grown by ____%. Finally, our small groups ministry is thriving like never before. Thank you for your generosity and impact. The vision is being fulfilled. Keep praying, keep serving, keep giving. God is just beginning what He desires to do through all of us in this city and around the world.

Let's pray. Father, we are following Your vision for our lives, families, and church. Thank You for having a vision. Thank You for having direction. We praise You for Your work and boldly ask You to not stop. Will You bless us with more guests next month than last? Will You help us to show Your love and grace at all times? Extend Your vision for their lives through us. We praise You, Father, for these people, this church, and city that we serve. We love You and surrender to You afresh and anew. Amen."

Special Offering: Alternate

"Today we are preparing for a special offering called_____. This is something we do regularly and the funds are 100% dedicated to_____. Here is what the Scriptures teach about special offerings, "All your males are to appear three times a year before the LORD your God in the place he chooses: at the Festival of Unleavened Bread, the Festival of Weeks, and the Festival of Shelters. No one is to appear before the LORD empty-handed. Everyone must appear with a gift suited to his means, according to the blessing the LORD your God has given you," Deuteronomy 16:16-17 (CSB). God has blessed us all and it is not about the dollar amount we give, but the willingness of our faith to recognize that all we have in life belongs to God. He has blessed us all with so much whether it be family, health, grace, happiness, and resources for our life needs. Let's make sure we are both open-handed and never empty-handed towards the Lord. God is so giving.

Be diligent to express your faith back to Him. Remember it is not the amount of the gift, but the surrendered faith that offers it.

Let's pray. *Father, we are blessed that we are about to bless others as we give towards _____.* Thank You for this opportunity and the difference it is going to make. You are a big God who dreams big dreams and accomplishes big stuff. Help us to rise up with faith and join in Your work. Give us courage. Give us faith. Help us release to You all You have given us. Help us live big lives as we join in Your work to make a difference in the life of another. Bless these people. You have spoken to them and they are ready to be generous. Hold nothing of Your goodness back. Shower them with Your favor and blessings. Amen."

City Impact: Alternate

"We are called to this generation and to this city. I am always awestruck when I consider how God has united us, causing our paths to cross for this moment in time. For some of you, this is your birthplace. For others, you were born on the other side of the world. However, our faith and destiny have collided in this city. I am reminded of this passage of Scripture, "From one man he has made every nationality to live over the whole earth and has determined their appointed times and the boundaries of where they live. He did this so that they might seek God, and perhaps they might reach out and find him, though he is not far from each one of us," Acts 17:26-27 (CSB). This week we made a difference in our city. We actually partnered with _____ organization providing them with _____. They were able to use our support to _____. I want you to know that the reach of your gifts is not limited to our acreage, but it reaches into the city each week. Thank you for your generosity.

Let's pray. *Father, thank You for our city. It is a gift to us. It is where we live our lives, do our jobs, and raise our families. It is also where we worship and live out our spiritual destinies. Cause us to see our city through Your eyes. Increase our passion for the people in our city. We pray for Your favor to rest upon it. We pray You will work. We pray for our city leaders that You have set in place. Thank You for them. Give them wisdom. Unite the church. Help us to live Your mission alongside of You everyday in our city. Amen."*

Serving: Alternate

"There are many different ways we live generous lives. Today alone (*insert number*) of people are giving their lives to make a difference in your life. They may be caring for your kids, parking a car, holding open a door, or pushing a button to make sure you can hear the band leading us in worship. We can give with our gifts, hearts, and resources. So I want to say thanks and acknowledge all those living generous lives today and all week long by serving. You are living a God-designed life when you are investing in others, using your talents, and giving yourself away. God bless you and thank you. You are making a difference.

Let's pray. *Father, You are the biggest giver of all. Thank You for being a generous, loving, and caring God. You never grow weary of giving away good gifts to make our lives more and more fulfilling. Thank You for gifting people and leading them to serve. Bless them today. Call us all to give*

*our lives away both here, at home, and in our city. Help us to reflect Your generosity wherever we go.
Amen."*